

JUL 23 2007

Atty. Docket No. JP919990227US1
(590.049)REMARKS

Applicant and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner. The Office is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection present in the outstanding Office Action in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-8, 10-15, and 17-18 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding Office Action. Applicant notes with gratitude that Claims 10-12, 17, and 18 have been allowed. Independent Claims 1, 8, and 15 have cancelled and dependent Claims 2-7 and 13-14 have been rewritten to, *inter alia*, change their dependencies. Thus, Claims 2-7, 10-14, and 17-18 are currently pending.

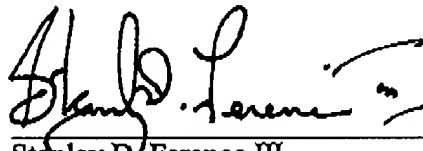
As noted above, Claims 17 and 18 have previously been allowed. All of the pending claims as amended herein now depend from (and thus incorporate the subject matter of) allowed Claims 17 and 18. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the applied art

Applicant is not conceding in this application the claims amended and cancelled herein are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications. Applicant specifically state no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

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In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 2-7, 10-14, and 17-18, is presently in condition for allowance. Notice to the effect is hereby earnestly solicited. If there are any further issues in this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below prior to the issuance of a further Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



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